

## **Merrell Whittier INGALLS.**

### **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

Merrell Whittier Ingalls was born in the state of Maine, and removed to the State of Illinois when a small boy and to California in 1864. He was employed by his father, who had a contract for the erection of a plant for the California Beet Sugar Company at Alvarado, California, in the year 1869. This plant was the first beet sugar factory in America, but was a few years later moved to Soquel, near Santa Cruz, California, where the writer with his brother was sub-contractor on part of the work. He then followed surveying and was also on the engineering corps, surveying proposed routes for pipe lines to supply San Francisco with water.

In 1879 he removed machinery from the factory in Sacramento, California, to Alvarado, for the Standard Sugar Company. He was employed by this company for six or eight years, first as mechanic and then as master mechanic and Chief Engineer.

On account of ill health, he went to Arizona and installed an electric light plant in the penitentiary at Yuma, then operated a lumber mill and electric light plant at Portland, Oregon.

Coming to Utah in 1891 as master mechanic for the company which was building a factory for the Utah Sugar Company, he made a one year's contract with them. Then he made a three year's contract with the Utah Sugar Company, and has been with the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, their successors, up to the present time, from 1902 to 1907 as Chief Engineer of all plants connected with Utah-Idaho sugar Company, and from that time until the present as Consulting Engineer with the Technical Board.

In the year 1901 the farmers that were raising beets in Salt Lake County would not raise them to the extent desired by the sugar company, on account of shortage of water, so in company with James H. Gardner, he contracted for and

installed a pumping plant at the mouth of the Jordan River for the different canal companies.